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Caso di Holloway

OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN AND ARUBAN PEOPLES

After having read the article published in Diario on Thursday, my first reaction was to jump in the pen and to let Mr. Bruce Alton have it. I was angry and wanted to boldly express my grief. It wasn't until I was done that I sat back and reflected upon the written. Alas, I found it to be very edgy, to say the least. So much so that I couldn't send it out. Suddenly, as in a premonition, I saw this downward spiral of negative comments going back and forth, sending our beloved island in a dark abyss of stigmatism and polarization. And I don't want to be a part of that anymore. It is my personal belief that every word, either written, spoken or thought out, will leave an indelible impression with the source and will often find an odd way of coming back and bite you in the face. It was only then that I decided that a change of hearts was needed.

As a ten year Hospitality Industry veteran, I clearly remember my first experience as a newly stated Hotel Assistant Manager (H.A.M.) in dealing with problems (or opportunities, as we like to say in the hotel business) and I asked my General Manager what I should do with that one guest that just about had had it with us and as it seemed any further interaction would only detriment the situation. His answer was simply: **Kill Them With Kindness!** Many promotions and hundreds of recommendation letters later, I can attest to the prophetic truth in these words. It is in this spirit that I appeal to the Aruban people to show our greatness in this time of need, to practice our compassion and to make a real effort to bring solace to those most in need, the Holloway / Twitty family. Let us not go and insult all Americans, since that would say more about the insulter than the one insulted. Let's refrain from speculating and adding more fuel to this unnecessary debacle. Let us do what we have always done, and that is to be proud of who and what we are. Let's be proud and share with others our happiness. Why does our license plate read: One Happy Island? It is simply because we are. I would furthermore appeal to those with the means, to provide for the almost insurmountable costs of the Holloway / Twitty family's extended stay. I would also like to incur all Arubans to donate to the Texas Equus Search Team. The story of Mr. Tim Miller is one of great inspiration. Mr. Miller lost his own child eighteen years ago and after she was found two years later, not two miles from the place she disappeared, he vowed to never again have another family go through that same nightmare.

To the American people I would like to say: Thank you, (those of you) for not having this barrage of negative publicity sway you from an objective opinion. To the millions of you who have visited our Island, Thank you! Thank you for your partnership in building a safe, pleasant and prosperous place where as Arubans we were able to thrive and share that wealth with those around us. And to those of you, who are calling us all sorts of names, insulting our people and institutions, all I can say is this: You have probably never been to this island and you would have never come anyways. Remember that **everything you say, says everything about you** and nothing about us.

I would like ultimately to remind the international press of the words from Pope Benedict II about the responsibilities of the press and news media. And as last I would like to say to Mrs. Twitty (and the extended Holloway / Twitty family): Mam, our thoughts and prayers are with you and with Natalee.

Ricardo H.E. Emerencia